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WILLIAM BILES

By

Miles White,Jr.

(Excerpted from the
Pennsylvania Magazine
of history and biography,v.26)

Baltimore,Md.

To The Editor of The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Philadelphia, Pa.

Baltimore, Feb. 6, 1922.

Dear Sir:—

In my article on William Biles published in Vol. 26 of your Magazine, I referred to the will of Dorothy Biles of Dorchester, 1693, as being the earliest recorded will of any of that name in either the Consistory Court or the Arch-Deaconry Court at Blandford; but at the time of writing the article, I did not know whether there was any relationship between Dorothy and William Biles.

Recently, Mrs. Walter Radcliffe Kirk of Chicago, a descendant of William Biles, sent me a copy of the will of Dorothy Biles dated 1692 and probated 1693, which she had obtained from the Arch-Deaconry Court at Blandford.

From this will it is evident that Dorothy was the mother of William and Charles Biles who emigrated to America and arrived in the Delaware River on the 4th day of 4th month, 1679.

Not only does Dorothy mention her sons William and Charles Biles of Pennsylvania, but William in his will, mentions his sister-in-law Mary Biles the widow of his brother Thomas Biles of Dorchester in the County of Dorset in old England, who Dorothy also mentions in her will.

Thinking that many other descendants of William Biles would be interested in this information, I send you herewith the copy of Dorothy's will and suggest that you publish it in your Magazine.

Yours very truly,

Miles White, Jr.

1692 WILL OF *DOROTHY BILES*

of the parish of All Sents in the tonne of Dorchester, widow. I give my soul unto God that gave it & my Body to be buried in Christian manner as my Ex-rs shall thincke fitt.

Item. I give to my *sonn William Biles In pensilvania* or Elsewhere or to his children the sum of tenn pounds.

Item. I give to my sonn *Charles in pensilvania* or elsewhere £10. the money to be paid to them by my exec-rin 6 mos after demand,—or if dead to be divided among children.

To my son *Jonathan in New England* or elsewhere or to his children £10. in 6 mos after demand. To my son *John at London* £5. To my son John's dau. Elizabeth 20s. To *my brother Thos. Strong* £10. for the use of my *daughter Rebecca Scutt.*—not to be disposed of without my daughter's free consent. Unto William Scutt my ganson £10. besides £16. which I have already ordered for ye cure of ye stone, but Iff he die before he is of age, remainder to his two sisters, Rebecca and Elizabeth. To my grand-daughters Rebecca Scutt and Elizabeth Scutt £5 apeece.—To my sonne in law Robert Scutt, my horse. To *my dau. Mary Biles, widow*, 20 s. To *her son Thomas Biles* 10 s. to her dau Mary B. 20 s., to her dau Rebecca B. 20 s. All to be paid when they come of age. *Unto ye poore of ye people commonly called Quakers 20 s.* All ye rest of my goods, linning & woollen, Brass pewter' lumber whatsoever (except?) one new paire of green curtaines & Vallins, I give to my dau. Rebecca Scutt's two daus. Reb. & Eliz. my funerall charges being paid, which I leave unto my bro. Thos. Strong's descresion, he to be allowed for the same. My bro. Thos. Strong Exec-r

Ye marke of Dorothy Billes

witness

Robt Young
John Read
George

1692

1606604

WILLIAM BILES.

BY MILES WHITE, JR., BALTIMORE, MD.

At what time the Biles family first settled in Dorsetshire, and whence they originally came, is uncertain. The earliest recorded will of any of the name, in either the Consistory Court or the Archdeaconry Court at Blandford, is that of Dorothy Biles, of Dorchester, in 1693.[1] The wills of Josiah Byles, of Dorchester, in 1707, and of four others who resided at Woodland, Holwell, Weymouth, and Shilling Okeford, are all that appear of record prior to 1710, which would seem to indicate that the family had not then been long resident there.

The Register of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, of Devizes, Wilts, shows that 12 Nov., 1593, Josias Byle married Anne Lye;[2] and *Alumni Oxonienses 1500–1714* contains the names of two Byles, as follows:

"Byle, William, 'serviens' of Cornwall, Exeter Coll., matric. 26 Oct., 1660, B.A. 1664, M.A. 1667.

"Byles, John, *s.* Daniel of Dorchester, Dorset, p.p. Exeter Coll., matric. 20 Nov., 1685; aged 16, B.A. 1689."

The latter was probably related to the subject of this sketch, who, however, always spelt his name "Biles," though in contemporary records it was frequently spelt "Byles."[3]

[1] *Index Library, British Record Society.*

[2] *N. Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg.*, vol. li. p. 136.

[3] A writer in the *N. Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg.* (vol. vii. p. 300) has said that "this name has undergone more varieties of spelling than one would suppose possible in so short a syllable. Farmer spells it 'Byles,' 'Byley' and 'Bylie.' In the *H. and G. Reg.* for 1849, p. 55, it is spelt 'Byly.' Mr. Stone in his History of Beverly spells it 'Byles.'"

In the *Visitation of Cornwall, 1620* (Harleian Soc. Pub., vol. ix.), the name appears as Bill, Byll, Beyle, Byle, Bile, Beele, Beile, Beill, Beale, Biell, Biele, and Debyll, and it is stated that there are numerous entries of the name of Beele in the Registers of the Parish of St. Ewe, and that Roger Beyle and Walter Byle were both members of Parlia-

The names of the parents of William, Charles, and Thomas Biles do not appear in any account of the first

ment in the time of Edward III., and that William Biell was an Alderman of the Towne and Borroughe of Saltashe in co. Cornwall in 1620.

The Hertfordshire family of Bill was a prominent one there from about 1400. (*Notes and Queries*, 1st ser., vols. vii. p. 286, x. p. 530, xi. p. 49; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, vol. v. p. 29.) Of this family was Rev. Wm. Bill, Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, 1546, Master of Trinity College, 1551, one of Committee to prepare form of Prayer Book, 1559, first Dean of Westminster Abbey, 1560, and Lord Almoner to Queen Elizabeth. A branch of this family settled in Staffordshire and their descendants now live at Farley Hall.

There were several early settlers of New England who were named Bill, Bills or Billes, Byles and Byley (Savage's *Geneal. Dict.*, vol. i. pp. 177, 179, 326); of these Josiah Byles, the father of the noted preacher Rev. Mather Byles, came from Winchester, co. Hants, prior to 1695. Henry Byley came, in 1638, in the "Bevis" of Southampton, from Salisbury, where the name of the family is found in Registers of St. Edmunds Parish between 1582 and 1636 (*N. Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg.*, vol. li. pp. 181–8) as Bile, Biley, Byle, Byley, and Bylie; and his grandfather describes himself in his will dated 18 Oct., 1633, proved 23 June, 1634, as Henry Biley the elder, of New Sarum, Wilts (Ibid., vol. lii. p. 44).

There was also a Thomas Bills, of Barnstable, Mass. (probably the son of William, who settled at Barnstable in 1640, and who may have been the Willen Bill of Great Torrington in Devonshire (Ibid., vol. xiv. p. 341), who at the age of 28 took oath of allegiance at Dartmouth, 20 Feby., 1634), who 1st married 3 Oct., 1672, Ann, dau. of Wm. Twining, by whom he had two daus. Ann and Elizabeth, mentioned in will of Wm. Twining (Phila. Wills, *Liber* B, *fol.* 402); and 2dly married 2 May, 1676, Joanna Twining (said by Savage to be niece of above Wm. Twining and by Twining Genealogy to have been his dau.), by whom he had three sons and three daus.; most of whom were born at Eastham, Mass. (*N. Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg.*, vol. vi. p. 43), where he removed from Barnstable, and where he was living in 1695. Wm. Twining removed from Mass., and settled in Bucks Co., Penna., and Thomas Bills and family settled in New Jersey, and were members of Shrewsbury Mo. Mtg of Friends, the Register of which shows the dates of death of Thomas and Joanna to have been respectively 2nd mo. 2, 1721, and 4th mo. 4, 1723.

Some of the above-mentioned persons may have been of the same family as the subject of this sketch, but no proof thereof has been obtained.

named, and it is not certain whether there were other children or not, and very little is known of their early life and occupations.

When William Biles became a Friend, and whom and when he married, may possibly be shown by the Minutes of Friends' Meeting in Dorsetshire; but the Register does not contain this information, nor does it make mention of any of his brothers or their families. It does, however, show the names and dates of birth of five of his children.

Pemberton's List of Arrivals[1] states that "William Biles, of Dorchester, in the County of Dorset, vile monger, and Johannah, his wife, arrived in Delaware river, in the 'Elizabeth & Sarah' of Waymouth, the 4th of the 4th M° 1679.[2] *Children.* William, George, John, Elizabeth, Johanah, Rebecca and Mary Biles. *Servants.* Edward Hancock, to serve 8 years: loose the last of the 3d M° 1687. To have 50 acres of land. Elizabeth Petty, to serve 7 years: loose the last of the 3d M° 1686. To have 50 acres of land.

"Charles Biles, of the town and County above. Arrived in the ship aforesaid, the time aforesaid."

Pemberton is in error as to Rebecca and Mary Biles having come, with their parents, from England. His List was not made until 1684,[3] and he evidently recorded all seven of William Biles's children, who were living at that time, instead of the five who actually came with him.

Whether Charles Biles brought with him a wife is unknown; no record of his marriage or death has been found, and as no wife or children are recorded in the List, it is quite probable that he married in America. He was a

[1] Pa. Mag. Hist. and Biog., vol. ix. p. 225; Battle's *Bucks Co.*, p. 677.

[2] One recent account states that they "landed in New Castle County, Delaware, April 4 [sic] 1679." I have been unable to find any corroboration of this statement, and believe it erroneous, and that they landed in New Jersey. See Smith's *Hist. N. J.*, p. 109; also *Hist. Delaware Co., Pa.*, p. 447.

[3] Pa. Mag. Hist. and Biog., vol. ix. p. 223; *Publications* So. Hist. Assoc., vol. v. p. 391.

brother of William, and appears to have always resided in New Jersey. He died and his widow remarried prior to March 9, 1697/8, as shown by a deed, dated that day,[1] but signed June 8, 1698, between Joseph Wood, of Bucks Co., Penna., yeoman, and Sarah, late widow of Charles Biles, of Maidenhead, Burlington Co., West Jersey, deceased, and Alexander Biles, second son of said Charles Biles and Sarah Biles, now Sarah Brearly, in which mention is also made of "ye two daughters of Charles Biles," names not given.

Charles Biles also had a son John, for the will of John Biles, of Maidenhead, Hunterdon Co., yeoman, dated May 29, 1740, was probated July 22, 1740.[2] In it mention is made of his wife Elizabeth, daughter Sarah, two sons John and Charles, and the Executors were "my wife and my brother Alexander Biles."

Charles Biles in 1694, in a deed, describes himself as "of Maidenhead, Province West New Jersey, yeoman," and 10th mo. 13, 1695,[3] he purchased of John English, of Burlington Co., 200 acres "above ye ffalls of the Delaware."[4]

Proud mentions William Biles as among those of the Society of Friends who arrived in the Province of New Jersey before the grant of Pennsylvania to William Penn, and who appear to be mentioned as active and useful, not only in their own religious society, but most of them also in a civil capacity in and about Burlington.[5]

How long William Biles tarried in New Jersey is not certain. The biographical sketch of him in *The Friend*[6] says he "appears to have resided a time at Burlington," and in the *History of Burlington and Mercer Counties*[7] it is stated that he settled *at* Burlington; while W. J. Buck, in his *History of Bucks County*,[8] says he settled in Bucks County in

[1] W. J. Deeds, *Liber* B, *fol.* 658.

[2] W. J. Wills, *Liber* 4, *fol.* 247.

[3] All dates in this article are Old Style.

[4] N. J. Deeds, *Liber* B, *fol.* 593.

[5] *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. p. 159 n.

[6] Vol. xxviii. p. 102.

[7] P. 113; see also Raum's *Hist. N. J.*, vol. i. p. 106. [8] P. 20.

1679. He seems to have held large tracts of land in New Jersey, which, however, all seem to have been purchased after he settled in Bucks County, Pa.

The first purchase appears to have been that tract described in a deed[1] from Thomas Green, of Maidenhead, Burlington Co., West New Jersey, yeoman, to William Biles, of County of Bucks, province of Penna., Merchant, dated 10 day of ye month called Aprill, 1696, and acknowledged the 3d of ye first month, 1697, before Mahlon Stacy, Justice, as 300 acres, being part of 400 acres, lying above ye ffalls within ye territories of Maidenhead. Consideration £55.

In other deeds he is described as "William Biles of Bucks County, Gent," "William Byles of Bucks County, yeoman," and "William Biles of Bucks County, Merchant." His purchases were located principally in Burlington and Salem Counties,[2] and also included "$\frac{1}{30}$ part of a share of land in West New Jersey, America," and "$\frac{1}{15}$ of $\frac{1}{100}$ of a whole propriety in West Jersey." In 1702 he was appointed by William Crouch, of London, Upholsterer, and James Wass, of London, Chirurgeon, as their attorney,[3] and as such conveyed various tracts of land to John Bryarly and John Swift, of New Jersey, and to John Hough, of Bucks Co., Pa.

In 1704 Joseph Wass, of London, sailed for America, and James Wass, Sr., Chyrurgion, appointed William Biles and Edward Shippen, of Pa., Merchants, Joseph Wass, now on a voyage to Pa., and Joshua Barkstead, late of London, now of W. N. J. his attys,[4] and they in 1705 conveyed to Robt. Ayers, of Rhode Island, 2200 acres in Salem Co. and to Thomas Stanford 300 acres called Quiahocking Islands.

September 15 and 16, 1707, James Wass sold to William Biles all his several tracts of land in or near Quahoking, Cohanzie and Morris River in W. N. J.[5] and William Biles, in 1709 (after he had made his will in which he bequeathed these tracts), conveyed to Joseph Kirkbride, of Bucks Co., Pa., and Thomas Lambert, of Burlington Co., W. N. J., parts of two tracts, one called Quohokin containing 4500 acres and the other being 10,000 acres in Salem Co., bordering on Morris River and Delaware Bay.

Through his large landed interest he became a member of the "Council of Proprietors of Western Division of New

[1] N. J. Deeds, *Liber* B, *fol.* 630.

[2] N. J. Deeds, *Liber* B, *fol.* 741; AAA, *fol.* 132, 133, 134, 139, 140, 141, 142, 220, 252; BB, *fol.* 275, 309, 310.

[3] Ibid., AAA, *fol.* 89, 148, 149, 151, 153, 154.

[4] Ibid., AAA, *fol.* 115, 184, 203.

Ibid., BBB, *fol.* 345 and 347; AAA, *fol.* 412 and 413.

Jersey," and when that body, 14 November, 1706, received in Council from the Gov. Lord Cornbury a Prohibition to granting any warrants for laying out lands &c., and a Petition from Proprietors and Purchasers of West Jersey, to Lord Cornbury, was drawn up, asking for the removal of the prohibition, we find William Biles[1] among the signers.

In 1680 the first regular correspondence between the Friends in America and London Yearly Meeting was begun by an epistle from the Monthly Meeting at Burlington,[2] in which it was particularly urged that, in order to prevent impostors and designing persons from coming among them, no Friends should remove to them without certificates from the Society where they had previously lived. This epistle was signed by those present at the meeting, and afterwards by William Biles[3] and some others who were not present.

The birth of William Biles's daughter Rebeckah in 1680 is entered in the Records of Burlington Monthly Meeting, and he was doubtless then a member of that meeting, on whichever side of the Delaware River he then resided. For although in Bucks County "the Quakers had a regular and established meeting, for religious worship, before the country bore the name of Pennsylvania,"[4] which meeting was held at the houses of William Yardley, William Biles,[5] and others, yet there was no monthly meeting until 1683, when the first one was set up at the house of William Biles, and continued to be held at houses of Friends till 1690, when the first Falls Meeting-House was built near Fallsington, which was the first building for worship erected in the county.[6]

It was probably on the door of William Biles's house that Phineas Pemberton, in 1683, placed a notice of the estab-

[1] *N. J. Archives*, 1st ser., vol. iii. p. 165.

[2] Proud's *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. p. 159.

[3] Smith's *Hist. Penna.* in Hazard's *Register*, vol. vi. p. 182; *The Friend*, vol. xviii. p. 407.

[4] Proud's *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. p. 217 n.

[5] Smith's *Hist. Penna.* in Hazard's *Register*, vol. vii. p. 116; *Friends' Miscellany*, vol. vii. p. 29.

[6] Buck's *Bucks Co., Penna.*, p. 81.

lishment of the weekly post in response to the request of the Governor,[1] "carefully to publish" this information "on the *meeting house door*, and other public places."

In 1679 Jasper Dankers made a copy of a map of the Delaware River from Burlington to Trenton, which has been supposed to have been made by some English surveyors. On this map[2] William Biles is shown to have 309 acres on the west side of the Delaware River, and the road from Burlington to "ye ffalls" passed through it. Holme's Map of Bucks Co., Pa., begun in 1681, shows that he owned two tracts of land fronting on the Delaware River, and that William and Charles Biles owned together another tract some little distance back from the river.[3]

Davis, in his *History of Bucks County*, says[4] that "in the summer and fall of 1679 and spring of 1680 several English settlers took up land on the river bank just below the falls. . . . William Biles, three hundred and nine acres. . . . He was a man of talent and influence and a leader;" and in another place he says,[5] "Of the original settlers in Falls, several of them were there before the country came into Penn's possession. They purchased the land of Sir Edmund Andros, who represented the Duke of York, and were settled along the Delaware from the falls down; among whom were William Biles [and others], whose lands bordered on the river. These grants were made in 1678 or 1679, that of Biles embraced 327 acres, for which Penn's

[1] *Friends' Miscellany*, vol. vii. pp. 28 and 29.

[2] *Burlington and Mercer Cos.*, p. 56.

[3] This last-mentioned tract contained 472 acres, and was granted by warrant dated 2nd mo. 13, 1683, laid out by Surveyor 4th mo. 13, 1683, and confirmed by Letters Patent from William Penn dated 5th mo. 29, 1684. William and Charles Biles divided this tract 8th mo. 14, 1686 (Bucks Co. Deeds, *Liber* 1, *fol.* 102 and 105), and Charles sold his equal half, containing 236 acres, to Abel Janney 7th mo. 12, 1694, and William sold his moiety of 236 acres to John Cuff or Luff 8th mo. 18, 1686.

[4] P. 35.

[5] Pp. 103 and 104; see also Buck's *Bucks Co., Penna.*, p. 80; Hazard's *Annals of Penna.*, p. 468.

warrant is dated 9th, 8th month, 1684, surveyed 23d, same month, and patented 31st, 11th month."

These two accounts probably refer to the same tract, as the below mentioned deeds (which I am informed by Mr. W. S. Ely, who made the examination for me, are all under which William Biles obtained possession, so far as the records show) do not convey two tracts of this size and description. There are two patents recorded from Penn to William Biles, one[1] dated 1st mo. 31, 1684, for 306 acres, for which warrant had been issued by Sir Edmund Andros in 1679 and from Penn 3rd mo. 9, 1684; the other[2] for 173 acres, dated 5th mo. 31, 1684, containing the same recital. This last tract of 173 acres William conveyed 2nd mo. 14, 1693, to Samuel Beakes,[3] and the former he deeded 4th mo. 14, 1698, to his son William Biles, Jr., cooper, as the "Farm and Tract in Falls Township whereon I live, containing 309 acres."

3rd mo. 16, 1701, William Biles conveyed to William White[4] 100 acres which had been patented to Philip Conway 5th mo. 15, 1684, and by him conveyed, by endorsement thereon, to Thomas Biles, brother of William, "and said William purchasing same had it confirmed by patent from Penn dated March 11th, 1692," but no such patent appears of record in Bucks County. Ann Milcombe conveyed 8th mo. 6, 1685, to William Biles 200 acres patented to her in 1684, which he, 5th mo. 5, 1688, deeded to Joseph English; and said English, 10th mo. 10, 1688, conveyed to Biles 102 acres patented to English in 1687.[5] Henry Baker, 7th mo. 1, 1698, conveyed to Biles two tracts of 100 acres and 190 acres,[6] which William conveyed to his son John 3rd mo. 24, 1707, as 300 acres. In 1705 there appears also to have been issued a patent to William Biles[7] for 472 acres in two tracts, one of 343 acres for 300 made up of Rowland's and Bennett's entries, and the other 129 acres for 100 of Harrison's; and these two tracts correspond in size to those shown on Cutler's map of 1703, as then belonging to William Biles, situated very near the northwestern corner of the Manor of Pennsbury, on the Bristol Township line, and it was probably to this tract, or the Atkinson one mentioned below, that William Penn referred in his letter of 7th mo. 30, 1705, to Governor Evans.

[1] Bucks Co. Deeds, *Liber* 11, *fol.* 467.
[2] Ibid., *Liber* 2, *fol.* 60.
[3] Ibid., *Liber* 2, *fol.* 61; *Liber* 5, *fol.* 208.
[4] Ibid., *Liber* 3, *fol.* 38.
[5] Ibid., *Liber* 1, *fol.* 9, 182, 196.
[6] Ibid., *Liber* 2, *fol.* 205; *Liber* 5, *fol.* 133; *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. xix. p. 423.
[7] Ibid., p. 473.

A tract of 300 acres which Thomas Atkinson took up but did not pay for was, after the marriage of William Biles to his widow, released by her three sons Isaac, William, and Samuel, as they severally became of age, to George Biles for a consideration,[1] and from him it passed through Solomon Warder to William Biles, Sr., and from him in 1707 to William Paxson.

Davis tells us that[2] "Biles's island, in the Delaware, a mile below the falls, and containing 300 acres, was sold to William Biles about 1680 by Orecton, Nannacus, Nenemblahocking, and Patelana, free native Indians, in consideration of £10, but was not actually conveyed by deed. The 19th of March, 1729, Lappewins and Captain Cumbansh, two Indian 'Sackemen,' and heirs and successors of the Indians above named, confirmed the said island to William Biles, Jr.,[3] son of William Biles, the elder, now deceased, in consideration of seven pounds in Indian goods. The deed contained a warranty against the grantors, their heirs, and all other Indians."

Davis furthermore states that[4] "Biles became a large land owner. He sold 5000 acres in this county near Neshaminy to William Lawrence [and others], but the purchasers could find only 2000 acres. In 1718 James Logan issued an order to survey 3000 additional acres, not already settled or surveyed." The Land Records show that William Biles, as attorney in fact for Thomas Hudson, conveyed several thousand acres in Bucks County to various individuals; and that these 5000 did not belong to him individually is shown by the Minutes of the Board of Property of the Province of Pennsylvania,[5] which state that William Lawrence and others "purchased of William Biles late of sd. County 5000 acres of Land in the sd. County belonging to one Thomas Hudson whose Atty he then was," etc., and that "The whole 5000 acres was formerly surveyed and sold to the above Persons of Long Island by William Biles, under certain Bounds, but the greater part being under an earlier survey to Dennis Rochford, is taken by his assignees."

Proud also states that[6] William Biles was a preacher among the Quakers, among the first settlers there, where he appears to have taken up land, under Governor Andros, of New York, prior to William Penn's grant of the Province. He is said to have been a very useful person both in

[1] Bucks Co. Deeds, *Liber* 3, *fol.* 86, 167.
[2] *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 117.
[3] Bucks Co. Deeds, *Liber* 26, *fol.* 380.
[4] *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 104.
[5] *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. xix. pp. 682, 693, 697.
[6] *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. p. 237 n.

the civil and religious line, being often in the Council and Assembly.[1]

In fact, he was an office-holder before the Province passed from under the Duke of York to William Penn, for he held office under the Pro-Provincial Government.[2] It has been said that in 1680 "the only European settlements comprised within its [Pennsylvania's] limits were included in Upland county, and were subject to the jurisdiction of Upland Court;"[3] and the records of that Court show that October 13, 1680, land was laid out by order of this Court "on ye west syde of delow^r Riv^r and on y^e South East syde of hataorackan Creeke,"[4] which was about Pennsbury Manor in Bucks County.

Though no record of the appointment of officers nor the establishment of such a Court has been found (the Minutes of the Governor and Council of New York, 1678–1683, not being in existence, so far as known), yet Colonial documents still preserved at Albany show clearly that there was in 1680 a Court at Crewcorne, or Creekehorne, and that William Biles was a member thereof.

No mention of this Court has been found elsewhere than in published records of the State of New York, and no historians of Pennsylvania or of Bucks County allude to it.

In reply to inquiries, Dr. William H. Egle writes me that "Crookhorne in Falls Township, Bucks county, was the first seat of justice of the county," and General W. W. H. Davis writes, "Crewcorne was on the Penna. side of the Delaware at Trenton Falls. It had no surveyed bounds, but a frontier settlement and local court was held there. The Upland Court had jurisdiction in Bucks to the falls. The Court at Manhattan had jurisdiction in Bucks in the

[1] Vide *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. ix. pp. 623, 752–754; *Duke of York's Laws*, pp. 485, 507, 523, 536, 552, 559, 565, 576, 577.

[2] *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. ix. p. 616.

[3] Smith's *Hist. Delaware Co., Pa.*, p. 125; *Mem. Pa. Hist. Soc.*, vol. vii. p. 81.

[4] Ibid., vol. vii. pp. 185, 203.

matter of Probate of Wills. My second edition of History of Bucks Co. will have new matter about Crewcorne."

The "new town of Crewcorne" at the Falls must have been the first settlement of what is now Morrisville. "Gilbert Wheeler called his house 'Crookhorn,' a name long forgotten," says Davis,[1] and John Wood, whose plantation included the present site of Morrisville, described himself in his will, 1692, as "John Wood of Crookhorn in the County of Bucks."

In *N. Y. Colonial Documents*[2] is a Petition of "Inhabitants of the new town, near the falls of the Delaware, called Crewcorne, against the sale of liquor to the Indians," dated "April y^e^ 12^th^ 1680" and addressed "To y^e^ Worthy Governor of New Yorke," and stating that Gilbert Wheeler's and Peter Aldrixman's houses and another one had been "broake open by Indians." This petition was signed by ten persons, and the first name is "Willh. Biles." He probably delivered it in person, for we find, under the heading[3] "Memorandum of papers delivered to Wm. Biles, a member of the new court at the falls of the Delaware," the following:

"W^m^ Biles one of there new made Co^rt^ there & this day sworne under the penalty of perjury. Apr. 21–1680.

"1. His Commission.

"2. A Warr^t^ to summon Gilb. Wheeler & P. Abr. to appeare here for selling drincks to ye Indyans.

"3. An abstract about ye Records.

"4. An order to Dan: Willet to returne Power of Magistrate.

"5. An order to have a returne about Rolf. Hoskin, drowned by Burlington."

The matter was later presented to the Council, as appears from the following entry:[4]

[1] *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 104.

[2] Vol. xii. pp. 645, 646.

[3] Ibid., p. 646; *Calendar N. Y. Hist. Mss.*, pt. ii. p. 87.

[4] *N. Y. Col. Doc.*, vol. xii. p. 650.

"Sundry entries respecting Upland, New Castle and Burlington.

"At a Councell &c May 21. 1680.

"Pres^{t} the Go : & Councell.

"A peticon from the Inhabitants at the Falls about abuse of drunken Indyans &c.

"Peter Alricks house at his Island near y^{e} Falls & Gilbert Wheeler house broken open.

"A returne from the Commission^{rs} of Burlington at Delaware of 8 men for magistrates according to order.

"A returne from the Const. of Creekehorne at the Falls, of the names of 4 for magistrates according to order likewise," etc.

The liquor question did not rest here, however, for there is preserved the "Complaint of sundry inhabitants of Crewcorne, on the Delaware, against Gilbert Wheeler for selling rum to the Indians," dated "Crewcorne Sep. y^{e} 13th 1680,"[1] addressed "To y^{e} Honorable Governor of N. Yorke," in which, after detailing the great fear and damage they are subjected to, they request that selling the Indians "strong Liquors may be wholely suppressed amongst us by virtue of a Warrant from yo^{r} Honor to make distress upon proof given to y^{e} Elected Commissioner for y^{e} time to Come for breach of that Abreviate of y^{e} Law which Will. Biles brought us; w^{ch} when we made our Complaint to him he told us his order w^{s} nothing worth, w^{ch} we accounted w^{s} sufficient but by his words we perseave that he intends to sell Rum himself; so hopeing yo^{r} Honor in charity will help us we remain," etc.

The Minutes of Falls Monthly Meeting hereafter referred to show the accuracy of the surmise of his neighbors as to William Biles's intention to sell rum to the Indians, and the records of Upland Court show that Gilbert Wheeler's actions were not permitted to go unpunished.

The last actual session of the Upland Court under the Duke of York was held at Kingsesse 14th June, 1681, and William Biles was present and appeared in various rôles.[2]

[1] *N. Y. Col. Doc.*, pp. 658, 659.

[2] *Mem. Pa. Hist. Soc.*, vol. vii. pp. 189, 190, 194; Davis's *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 40; *Hist. Chester Co., Pa.*, pp. 18, 363; Pa. Mag. Hist. and Biog., vol. iii. p. 263.

He informed the Court that Robert Michill, next heir of Robert Hoskins, deceased, was living in England, and desired him to take care of the estate of the deceased in this country. He was one of the jurors in the case of Lasse Dalboo against Swen Lom. As "Constable att ye faals" he gave information against "Gilbert wheeler att ye s[d] faals, for selling of strong Licquors by retayle to ye Indians Contrary to ye Lawe & ye forwarning of ye s[d] Constable," and Wheeler was fined four pounds and costs. The last act of the judges, before adjourning "till ye 2[d] Teusday [13th] of ye month of Septemb[r] next," was to appoint "William Boyles to bee surv[r] & overseer of ye highwayes from the faales to Poetquessink Creek; hee to take care that ye s[d] highwayes be made good & passable, w[th] bridges over all myry & dirty places."

Before the time adjourned to had arrived, notice was received[1] from "Commander and Councill," dated New York, 21st June, 1681, that William Penn had obtained Letters Patents to the Province, and the Duke of York's authority had ceased; "the old Court closed its session the 13th of September and the new Court opened the next day [?]. Among the business transacted was the appointment of William Biles and Robert Lucas, who lived at the falls, justices of the peace,[2] and pounds, shillings and pence were declared to be the currency of the country." The first entry in the Records of Chester County Court shows that it was held at Upland September 13, 1681, and that Mr. William Byles was one of the justices present.[3]

[1] *Mem. Pa. Hist. Soc.*, vol. vii. pp. 195, 196.

[2] Davis's *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 55; *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. ix. p. 617.

[3] *Hist. Chester Co., Pa.*, p. 18; Hazard's *Annals of Penna.*, p. 525.

(To be continued.)

WILLIAM BILES.

BY MILES WHITE, JR., BALTIMORE, MD.

(Continued from page 70.)

William Biles, at different times, was a witness to many wills, deeds, etc., and the fac-simile of his signature, given herein, is taken from the will of Jacob Janney, of Bucks County, dated 8th mo. 2, 1708, and still preserved in the office of the Register of Wills at Philadelphia.

An election was ordered for February 20, 1682, for members of Council and Assembly, to be holden at Philadelphia March 10 following, when William Biles, Christopher Taylor, and James Harrison were elected to the Council from Bucks County.[1]

The first session of this first Council was held in Philadelphia 1st mo. 10, 1682/3, and was presided over by William Penn in person;[2] William Biles was present, and seems to have been regular in his attendance during its sessions and to have taken an important part in framing the laws; on the 16th, 21st, and 26th insts. he was appointed on committees to which were referred the preparation of various bills for the Council,[3] and on 7th mo. 8, 1683, he and three others were appointed "to bring in a Bill concerning horses goeing out and comeing into this Province." He was also present (2d mo. 2, 1683) when the Great Charter was read and thankfully received, and was one of those who signed it.[4]

We find that, according to the entry in the original

[1] Davis's *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 65.

[2] *Colonial Records*, vol. i. p. 1; Proud's *Hist. Penna.*, vol i. p. 235; *Delaware Register*, vol. i. p. 331.

[3] *Colonial Records*, vol i. pp. 6, 8, 11, 24.

[4] Ibid., pp. xl, 16: Proud's *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. p. 239; vol. ii. Appendix, p. 28; Davis's *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 65.

records of Bucks County of 1684,[1] showing ear-marks or brands, that William Biles, William Biles, Jr., and Charles Biles were then owners of cattle.

On May 22, 1684, the Provincial Council appointed[2] "One Inferior receiver in Every County, who shall receive directions from y^e^ Deputy Treasurer, who shall receive Instructions from y^e^ Gov^r^ and Councill; who Shall not be allowed above 20 lb. p. year;" among whom was "Wm. Biles, for Bucks;" and on February 11, 1685, William Biles and others were appointed to lay out a road in Bucks County.[3] The Council (2d mo. 6, 1685) "Ordered that a Comission be drawne for James Harrison, Tho: Janney, Wm. Yardley, Wm. Biles, Wm. Beaks, John Ottor, Edm^d^ Bennet & Jno. Swift, to be Justices of the Peace for y^e^ County of Bucks, the year Ensueing."[4] Until the Revolution, justices of the peace were judges in the County Courts in Pennsylvania.

The Council[5] (10th mo. 1, 1685), having been requested that a "Speciall Comission be granted for y^e^ Tryall of David Davis the next Court, who is a Prisoner in y^e^ County of Bucks, on suspition of killing his servant," unanimously agreed "that a Comission be Expeditiously prepared for y^e^ authorising & Impowring of James Harrison, Arthur Cook, Tho. Janney, Wm. Yardley, Wm. Biles, to be special Comiss^re^ to hear and Determine all heinous and Enormous Crimes that shall be brought before them in y^e^ County of Bucks, in a Court there to begin on y^e^ 10^th^ Ins^t^, by them to be held."

The first session of the Assembly to which William Biles was elected was that of 1686, beginning 3d mo. 10 at Philadelphia, and on 3d mo. 11 he and Cornelius Empson were fined twelve pence each for being absent the previous day;[6]

[1] *Colonial Records*, p. 77.
[2] Ibid., vol. i. p. 57; Battle's *Bucks Co.*, p. 194.
[3] Ibid., p. 184. [4] Ibid., vol. i. p. 76.
[5] Ibid., p. 114; Battle's *Bucks Co.*, p. 246.
[6] *Votes of Assembly*, vol. i. pt. 1, p. 37.

and William Yardley and he were appointed a committee to acquaint the Council that the Assembly desired to meet the President and Council in a full body. He was a member of the Council and Assembly for so many years that an enumeration of all the committees on which he served would occupy too much space, and mention of only some of the more important ones must suffice. He was frequently appointed to acquaint the Council of the acts or desires of the Assembly, and was often a member of the Committee on "Aggrievances," through the medium of which much of the ordinary business of the Assembly was first brought before the House.

In 1687 the tax levied was given to William Biles to collect;[1] and in this year we are informed[2] that "Wm. Biles, the only merchant along the Delaware who imported and sold Rum, a leading Friend, and several times elected to the Assembly, was called to account for selling rum to the Indians, and Thomas Janney and William Yardley were appointed to wait on him." He said to them[3] that it was "not against the Law neither doth he know that it is any evil to do so, but however, if Friends desire him not to do it, he will for the future forbear it;" which caused a writer in the *Friends' Intelligencer* to say, "It was a remarkable act of a Christian man that he should discontinue to sell rum to the Indians, on account of the desire of his brethren, when it was neither a violation of law nor the Discipline."

In 1689 he served his second term in the Assembly, and was present at the opening session, 3d mo. 10; and he and Joseph Fisher were requested to find out whether the Governor and Council could listen to some proposals from the Assembly.[4] He was appointed also on the Committee on "Aggrievances."

[1] Battle's *Bucks Co.*, p. 189.

[2] Davis's *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 835.

[3] MS. Minutes Falls Monthly Meeting; *Friends' Intelligencer*, vol. lvi. p. 489.

[4] *Votes of Assembly*, vol. i. pt. 1, p. 48.

On 11th mo. 2, 1689/90, the Council[1] ordered that "Commissions of y^e^ Peace be made for all y^e^ Counties, and these persons ffollowing to be Inserted, (viz) Bucks Co. Arth. Cook, Jos. Growdon, Wm. Yardly, Tho. Janney, Wm. Byles, Nich. Newlin, Jo^n^ Brock, Hen. Baker."

In March, 1690, the grand jury thought it necessary that the county be divided into townships, and the court, at its next session, ordered Henry Baker and eleven others, including William Biles, to meet together at the court-house the day before the next court and perform this service; for some reason this order was not obeyed, and at the September term, 1692, the court again took up the matter and appointed a jury, on which were Arthur Cook[2] and twelve others, including William Biles (nine members of the former jury being reappointed), and ordered them "or the greater number of them to meet together at the meeting-house at Neshaminah the 27th day of this instant, and divide this county into townships," which they accordingly did.

Only fragments of the minutes of Councils for 1692 and 1693 (prior to April 26, when Governor Fletcher arrived) remain; and though William Biles was a member[3] for these sessions, it is not known whether or not he took an active part in the proceedings.

The Council of 1693[4] "came on the scene in the midst of very unsettled times; the dissensions of the past two years were still rampant, while hardly had the Council begun its administration when it was deposed by the arrival of Governor Fletcher, with his commission from the Crown, to assume Penn's government, and was supplanted by a new Council appointed by him," and William Biles, who had

[1] *Colonial Records*, vol. i. p. 278; Buck's *Bucks Co., Pa.*, p. 23.

[2] *Publications* So. Hist. Assoc., vol. v. pp. 393, 394; Battle's *Bucks Co.*, p. 190; Davis's *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 101; PA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG., vol. xviii. p. 24.

[3] *Charter to William Penn* and *Duke of York's Laws*, p. 537; PA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG., vol. xi. pp. 151–159.

[4] Ibid., vol. xviii. p. 25.

been elected for the years 1692, 1693, and 1694, went out of the Council.

In 1694 William Biles was again in the Assembly which met 2d mo. 10, 1694, at Philadelphia, and served on the Committee on "Aggrievances,"[1] and on 4th mo. 9 he and three others were ordered to attend the Governor and Council, with the Remonstrance drawn in answer to the Queen's letter and Governor's speech, and to inquire what had been done concerning the bills sent up.

In 1695 Joseph Growden, Phineas Pemberton, and William Biles were elected from Bucks County to the Council which met on April 20,[2] and on the 22d the return of the Sheriff of Bucks County of representatives in Council was read and rejected, "becaus it did not mention the day of their election, nor the rexive years for which the members were to serve;"[3] and on the 24th it was "Ordered, that new writts be issued for their election of representatives upon y^e^ 8^th^ of May next," when William Biles was elected for one year. On May 28 he and one member from each of the other counties "were appointed to Consider of a new frame & modell of governm^t^ & to make report to the Governo^r^ & Councill this afternoon." They reported,—

"That they had made some attempts, but Could not agree upon a new frame," and Governor Markham appointed the same committee to meet with him about it. The next day they reported[4] "That nothing could be agreed upon in ord^r^ to a new modell of governm^t^ notwithstanding all y^e^ pains & time spent about y^e^ same." The Governor addressed the Council, and upbraided them for taking up much time in endeavoring to lay aside the Charter, which had previously been thankfully accepted, and endeavoring unsuccessfully to make a more easy frame of government; and since the object of their meeting was to advise with him in matters relating to the government, he informed them that the Queen, upon the 21st of August, 1694, had signified, "That a Quota not exceeding eighty men, with their officers, or the value of the chairges

[1] *Votes of Assembly*, vol. i. pt. 1, p. 88.
[2] Battle's *Bucks Co.*, p. 200.
[3] *Colonial Records*, vol. i. pp. 447, 448.
[4] Ibid., pp. 450, 451.

of maintaining y^e^ same, be the measure of the assistance to be given by y^e^ sd province of pennsilvania & Countrie of Newcastle for y^e^ defence & securitie of the province of New-York," etc.

This question occupied the attention of the Legislature for more than one session, for in 1696[1] we again find William Biles a member of the Assembly which met 8th mo. 26 at Philadelphia, and on the 30th he was appointed on a committee to consider a way to answer the Queen's letter and preserve the people's privileges.[2] On the 31st they reported that they had an expedient ready to answer the Queen's letter, but that they recommended before this was put into effect the provisions of the old Charter (that before Governor Fletcher's time) in regard to election of Councillors and Assemblymen should be put in force.

William Biles was returned, as elected, to the Council that met in Philadelphia May 10, 1698, and took his seat on the 11th inst.;[3] and likewise to the Council that met May 10, 1699,[4] on which date he "did subscribe the declaraon of fidelity, the profession of the Christian belief, & the test."

The Council which met March 30, 1700, received on April 1 the return of the Sheriff of Bucks County of representatives in Council, from which it appears that William Biles was elected for two years,[5] and appeared and took his seat; and on April 10, the question of laws for securing the people's property in Overplus Lands being debated and left to the consideration of the Governor and Council, "y^e^ prov. Gov. appointed John Simcoke, Joseph Growdon and Wm. Biles[6] to meet him att night to consider yrof, & as neer as might be, to adjust y^e^ rates of overplus Lands, according to their neerness to or remoteness from y^e^ town of philadelphia."

On June 7, 1700, the opposition between the members of

[1] *Colonial Records*, p. 468.
[2] *Votes of Assembly*, vol. i. pt. 1, p. 94.
[3] *Colonial Records*, vol. i. p. 515.
[4] Ibid., p. 536. [5] Ibid., p. 568. [6] Ibid., p. 573.

the upper and lower counties about the number of members and representatives, charges, etc., prevented an agreement about the proposed new Charter,[1] and it having been voted that they would not be governed by the old Charter, but that Penn should resume government under letters patent of King Charles II., the Speaker, in behalf of the representatives in Assembly, William Biles and John Hill, in behalf of those in Council, for the Province and territories respectively, by the unanimous consent of all members present of both Council and Assembly, took the Charter and delivered it up to the Proprietary and Governor.

On October 24, at a Council held at New Castle, the Proprietary "sent for ph. pemberton, Wm. Biles & Jn° Blunston,[2] who having been qualified to be of y° Council, took yr places att y° board."

As William Biles went to England in 1701, he was absent from the meetings of Council that year.

Not only was he a member of the Council for the years 1698–1701, as above stated, but he was also during the years 1699–1701 a Puisne Judge, or one of the Justices of the highest court in the Province.[3] Prior to 1790 the Court of Oyer and Terminer, for trial of higher crimes and appeal, was held by the Justices of the Provincial or Supreme Court, who made a circuit of the counties at stated times, and we find that on April 18, 1699, Edward Shippen, Cornelius Empson, and William Biles held court at Chester.

In 1700 Phineas Pemberton, William Biles, and Richard Hough were appointed Judges of a Court of Inquiry "For the compleat Settling and Establishing of Affairs of Property in this the County of Bucks." That the powers of this Court were very extensive is shown by their commission signed by William Penn 10th mo. 18, 1700, which is given in full in Buck's *History of Bucks County*.[4]

During the early days of the Province there were no

[1] *Colonial Records*, p. 588. [2] Ibid., p. 592.

[3] *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. ix. p. 630; *Hist. Chester Co., Pa.*, p. 370.

[4] P. 23; see Battle's *Bucks Co.*, p. 366.

lawyers there, but William Biles and others appeared for their neighbors and friends, and were called attorneys. It also appears that in December, 1702, the court adjourned to William Biles's house;[1] this was soon after his return from England.

At the Assembly begun at Philadelphia on October 15, 1703, William Biles was present and signed the declaration and test,[2] and on August 21, 1704, he informed the House,[3] "that *Nathaniel Puckle* had a Letter from the *Proprietary* to be communicated to several Persons here, encouraging them to *insist* upon the Privileges of their Charter and Laws, and not tamely give them up; and instanced what Advantage it has been to the People of *Rhode-Island*, *Connecticut*, and other Proprietary Governments, to assert their Rights," etc.

James Logan, writing to Penn 9th mo. 22, 1704, says,[4] "That ridiculous old man, W. Biles, frequently affirms they will never grant one penny on any account till they have all their privileges explained and confirmed."

In 1704 the animosity between the Proprietary's adherents and his opponents, which had long been an undercurrent in politics, broke forth with great violence, and the country became distinctly divided into two political parties, the Proprietary or Aristocratic and the Popular or Democratic, the former under the leadership of Logan and the latter under that of David Lloyd. William Biles belonged to the latter, while some of his neighbors and personal friends belonged to the former, and were his bitter political enemies.

Logan spoke in such strongly adverse terms of the prominent members of the Popular party that the editor of the *Penn-Logan Correspondence* felt called upon several times to make excuses for him, and to say,[5] "such was the Secretary's

[1] Battle's *Bucks Co.*, pp. 250, 205.

[2] Proud's *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. p. 455 n.

[3] *Historical Review of Const. and Govt. of Penna.*, p. 65 n.

[4] *Penn-Logan Corresp.*, vol. i. p. 344.

[5] Ibid., vol. ii. p. 34.

zeal for the Proprietary interests that he was not inclined to regard with favor those who were arrayed against them." In his letters to Penn he says,[1]—

"This people think privileges their due, and all that can be grasped to be their native right. . . . They think it their business to secure themselves against a queen's government;" and again,[2] "The generality, however, are honestly and well inclined, and out of assembly are very good men; but when got together, I know not how they are infatuated and led by smooth stories."

The fact that Logan spoke in harsh terms of the public acts of Biles and others does not seem to have affected his regard for and intercourse with them personally; for, after the Evans affair had occurred, we find him writing to William Biles under date of 8th mo. 11, 1708,[3] beginning the letter, "Loving Friend," and closing it, "I am thy well-wishing friend." This letter was partly in regard to a claim of certain persons to Biles's Island, and Logan states, "I will spare no pains nor cost to convince these persons, whoever they are, that they have been in the wrong," etc.

William Biles was Treasurer of Bucks County in 1704,[4] and also collector of money granted the Proprietary by the Legislature; and on March 28[5] he and the other collectors of this fund were summoned to attend the Council, and "to answer for their neglect in Collecting y^e^ sd Tax within their several Districts." He was also a member of the Assembly which met at Philadelphia October 14, 1704, and was one of the committee[6] to which the bill for "the Affirmations to pass in Lieu of Oaths," etc., was committed, 8th mo. 26, and 9th mo. 14 on the committee to prepare the *Votes of Assembly* for publication, and on adjournment of the Assembly (3d mo. 23, 1705) was sued by Governor Evans in an action of £2000 pounds, as related by Logan,[7] "for saying these words on the 11th-month last; '*He is but a*

[1] *Penn-Logan Corresp.*, vol. i. p. 299.
[2] Ibid., vol. i. p. 323.
[3] Ibid., vol. ii. p. 299.
[4] *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. ix. pp. 744, 743.
[5] *Colonial Records*, vol. ii. p. 124.
[6] *Votes of Assembly*, vol. i. pt. 2, p. 22.
[7] *Penn-Logan Corresp.*, vol. ii. p. 33.

boy; he is not fit to be our Governour. We'll kick him out; we'll kick him out.' And at the ensuing Court, himself not appearing, and David Lloyd, his attorney, demurring upon a plea of privilege as an Assemblyman, which was overruled, he was ordered to plead over and come to an issuable plea; but this he refused, and therefore judgment went against him yesterday. A jury of inquiry sat upon the damages, and found £300 to the Governour."[1]

William Biles wrote a letter to Governor Evans, the original of which is now in the library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. It has never been published, and is as follows:

[3d mo. 1705.]

"To John Evans Esq^{r} Liftenant Gover^{r} of the provience of pensilvania.

"the pettition of Wm Biles of y^{e} County of bucks In all humble manner sheweth

"that thou was pleased to comence an action against me upon Supposesion that I had spoken sum scandelous words of thee but thorough the Inadvertansy or desine of the shreife hee Sumoned me upon the day that I was actually conserned In the servis of the assembley of this provience which ocationed me to plead or Insist upon my priviledge as I was and am a member of that assembley and for that and no other Reason I declined Answering thy declaration and making further defense to thy suit and had it not been for yt I doubt not but I would have produsced such proofe as might have Invalidated that single evidence given against me or at Least Rendered It In Efectuall to maintaine thy—declaration and for my owne part I can singly say that I do not Remember that I ever spoke those words as A Leaged In yt declaration but In Regard thou hast given unto such Information and conserned so much displeasure against me and although thou hast given mee sum discouragement to make any further Application to thee upon that account never the Less I hope thou will not be offended at these few Leines whear by I do signifie unto thee as before I have done that I am

[1] The editor of *Penn-Logan Correspondence* (vol. ii. p. 131) remarks that "The plain import of the words was that Evans was a boy, and deserved to be turned out; the correctness of which was shown in the fact that suit was brought in a spirit of boyish petulance, and with the hope that some money might be made out of it. His course (as shown in Logan's letter of 4th mo. 12, 1706) fully establishes the truth of Biles's statement, and much more."

hearttily sorrey for any words by me spoaken at any time conserning thee which hath given thee any Just ocation of ofence neither did I ever act any thing against thee to thy hurt therefore I desiar that thou would be pleased to pas by yt which cannot be recaled and for the future I do Intend to be carfull of ofending thee

"Wm Biles."

As this affair has caused William Biles more notoriety than any other event, it will probably be of interest to note some of the actions taken by the Assembly and Council in regard thereto, as it occupied the attention of both Houses on several days, and the *Votes of Assembly* and *Colonial Records* contain the proceedings in full.[1] Before doing this, however, it will be well to make some investigation as to Governor Evans.

John Evans, who succeeded Hamilton as Deputy Governor in 1704, was at the time of his appointment only twenty-six years of age, was an officer of the Queen's household, and in consequence of his previous surroundings had little sympathy with the life and character of Pennsylvania Friends.[2] With his first interview with the Assembly began a quarrel which, owing to his want of tact and his disorderly life, eventually enabled the faction of David Lloyd to thwart all his projects.[3]

Benjamin Franklin says of him,[4]—

"So unpopular was he, that an unanimous Vote of Thanks to the Proprietary was passed on his being removed, almost before his Face, for he was still a Resident amongst them."

Rev. Edward D. Neill concludes his narrative of Evans's chastisement by a countryman, whom he had ordered to turn his loaded wagon out of the road so that he, who was on foot, might pass, with the statement that "At length the

[1] *Votes of Assembly*, vol. i. pt. 2, pp. 43–48; *Colonial Records*, vol. ii. pp. 205–209.

[2] Armor's *Lives of the Governors of Penna.*, pp. 118–121; Egle's *History of Penna.*, p. 61.

[3] Keith's *Lives of Provincial Councillors*, p. 7.

[4] *Historical Review of Const. and Govt. of Penna.*, p. 71.

waggoner discovered that every governor was not a gentleman, and that he had assaulted Governor Evans;"[1] and adds, "the private life of Evans was as censurable as his public conduct."

William Penn wrote to Governor Evans 7th mo. 30, 1705,[2]—

"*Much is said of the Lewdnes of Pennsylvania. I beg of thee to have regard to my Character* and give not that advantage against me either with God or good or bad men whose ill use of it I most fear, on a publick acct. I have just now Rec'd thine of 5th 5 mo (July) and am very Sorry that wicked man D. L. could blow up any of his Mermidons to such a pitch of brutishness as thy Acct. of William Biles relates that is a meer vox et praeterea nihil, a Coxcomb, and a Prag-matick in graine. That fellow's plantation is a Robbery upon Pennsbury,[3] and if there be a grant, was not a purchase from me, nor any Towed Land writs, for it was surveyed long before and done in my absence, formerly, and Judge Mompresson can tell if I may not be deceived, in my Grant as well as the Crown, be it King or Queen,—Since, if confirmed, it was upon Surprize, and rattle an Inquisition about his eares, if not a prosecution. And know that when the time is expired of Session he may be taken to task, Since the Service he may pretend he was to attend is over. And first complain to the Friends, and if they wont or cant bow him to make Satisfaction, take it by Law thy Selfe. Pray mind what I say, be Secret, which is discreet, and fall on him or any other such unruly People at once, and make Some one Example to terrifie the rest. Thou hast not only my leave, but liking and encouragement whether called Quakers or others."

Governor Evans's subsequent action in regard to William Biles is thus shown to have been fully approved by Penn, who perhaps was aware that in 1629, having "obtained the opinion of the judges that privilege of parliament did not protect a member from prosecution after the close of the session for offences committed during it," the Attorney-

[1] *N. Eng. Hist. and Gen. Register*, vol. xxvi. pp. 423, 424.

[2] Ibid., p. 427.

[3] The plantation referred to must have been the one near the north-western boundary of the manor, for which patent was issued in 1705, as per minutes of the Board of Property, *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. xix. p. 473.

General, Sir Robert Heath,[1] instituted proceedings against Holles, Eliot, Selden, and other members, and obtained judgment against them of imprisonment during the King's pleasure.

Penn's description of William Biles is not upheld by later historians, whose estimates are condensed in Dr. George Smith's statement,[2] that "He was a man of ability and the strictest integrity." Logan, sharing Penn's animosity, said of him,[3] "he very much influences that debauched County of Bucks, in which there is now scarce any one man of worth left."

However, we find that on 4th mo. 12, 1705, William Biles complained to the Assembly "against the Justices and Sheriff of the County of *Philadelphia*, for a Breach of Priviledge," and it was ordered to be considered the next week. On the 19th the House decided[4] "That it is a Breach of Priviledge of this House, that any Member duly elected to serve in Assembly, shall, without the Leave of the House, be summoned or drawn, or in any wise compelled, during the Session or Continuance of Assembly, to appear at any inferior Court in this Province, upon any Pleas or Complaints, excepting for Treason, Felony, or Breach of the Peace," and in the afternoon, upon further consideration and debate, it was decided that the Sheriff who summoned William Biles to answer the action against him, and the four Justices of the Court who denied him "his Priviledge by over-ruling his Plea in that Behalf, have committed a manifest Breach of Priviledge against this House."

On the 20th a message from the Governor to the House of Representatives was drawn up, read in the Council,[5] and approved of, in which he stated that William Biles had used the most scandalous and seditious expressions against him,

[1] *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*, vol. xxv. p. 347.
[2] *Hist. Delaware Co., Pa.*, p. 447.
[3] *Penn-Logan Corresp.*, vol. ii. p. 34.
[4] *Votes of Assembly*, vol. i. pt. 2, p. 43.
[5] *Colonial Records*, vol. ii. p. 205.

and he demanded that they expel Biles from the House and advise him of their action without delay. This message was read in the House that day and ordered to be read again the next day. On the 21st, after it had been again read and William Biles had withdrawn, and the matter had been debated, the minutes state that, "The Question being put, that the said *William Biles* be expelled this House, according to the Governor's Request? *It passed in* the Negative.

"*Ordered.* That an Address to the Governor be drawn concerning the said *William Biles*, which shall comprize the Opinion and Resolves of this House relating to the Premises."

On the 22d the Address, which had been prepared, was read before the House, agreed to, and ordered to be signed by the Speaker and presented to the Governor, who on the 23d laid it before the Council. In it the House stated that, while not justifying such words as were alleged to have been spoken, nevertheless, the manner of proceedings against William Biles was very offensive to the House, and that the Sheriff who served the writ and the Justices who heard the case committed a manifest breach of privilege against the House; and as they were tender of the privileges of the House, so they would gladly show their resentment of all indignities offered to the Governor; but they found no sufficient ground for expelling William Biles from the House, and requested that he be given an opportunity to call and vindicate himself, so far as he can.

The minutes of Council show that it was the unanimous opinion of the Board that it was useless to spend longer time conferring with the then present House, and was most advisable to end further debates by dismissing them. Accordingly the Governor requested the attendance of the Speaker with the whole House, made them a sharp speech, refused to let the Speaker be heard in vindication of the House, and dismissed them.

James Logan, in a long letter to William Penn,[1] stated substantially that—

[1] *Penn-Logan Corresp.*, vol. ii. pp. 131–133.

"The Yearly Meeting sent for Biles to town, and condemned him for it, and made some intercession in his behalf, stating it would be generous in the Governour to forgive him all; the Assembly also in 12th mo. interceded for him and the Governour assured Edward Shippen and the other messengers from the House that he never designed to injure W. Biles, and gave them his word that if ever he found cause to give him any further trouble he would first acquaint them therewith. In 1st mo. William Biles relying upon the assurances of Edward Shippen and others concluded he might safely venture to town. He met the Governour, shook hands with him, and all seemed well; yet the Govr. went to Robt. Ashton's and caused a writ to be drawn which he had signed and at the same time wrote a letter to Edward Shippen and the others which he took care should not be delivered until after the Sheriff had arrested Wm. Biles. These members of Assembly hurried to the Governour, with great concern, but could not move him, nor could I though I pleaded with him for nearly an hour, telling him that the Government would greatly suffer by such dishonorable proceedings. I laboured to get others to speak to him on the subject, and prevailed on the Sheriff to keep his prisoner at the public house where he had taken him, until it was evident that all intercession was in vain, when he was committed. Divers Friends were much concerned and the women took very good care of William in prison. When I came home I wrote a long remonstrative letter to the Governour, which I delivered the next day and for about an hour endeavored by the most pressing and cogent arguments to dissuade him from his course. William was kept a close prisoner for about a month, until the Governour saw he could never get any money by it, but lost his own interest with the Country and his Friends. 'Twas this, however, that first caused people to look about them. But however this ended, the disgust at one time was high."

Another writer upon the subject says,[1]—

"but finally finding the whole community incensed against him for the course he was pursuing, he released his prisoner without the fine. William was satisfied that he had allowed the warmth of his feelings to get the better of his judgment when he had spoken the honest convictions of his mind, relative to the weak-minded, quarrelsome Governor, and he hesitated not to condemn his so speaking. It does not appear but that he was as useful in religious as well as civil concerns afterwards, as he had been before this affair took place."

[1] *The Friend*, vol. xxviii. p. 109.

(To be continued.)

WILLIAM BILES.

BY MILES WHITE, JR., BALTIMORE, MD.

(Concluded from page 206.)

William Biles was a member of the Assembly which began its session at Philadelphia October 14, 1707,[1] and he and John Bethell were sent with a message to the Governor (Evans), to find out when the Assembly should meet him. They waited on him, and he made an address, the beginning of which was to the effect that he noticed that most of the members were the same as those of last year, who had lost so much time and fallen into unnecessary disputes. However, he addressed them as a new body and hoped that they would begin afresh. He made no allusion to his personal affair with William Biles in the Assembly of 1704, though this was the first time that Biles had been in the Assembly since.

The Assembly which met in Philadelphia October 14, 1708, Charles Gookin being Lieutenant-Governor, was the last one of which William Biles was a member, and on 2d mo. 13, 1709, he was on a committee to draw up an answer to the Governor's speech.

William Penn made several treaties with the Indians, the last of which was in 1686, though the place where it was held is not mentioned anywhere. After Penn's death a document was found among his papers in England, which was endorsed "Copy of the last Indian Purchase." Davis[2] says,—

"there was never any attempt to prove the deed by calling the persons who witnessed it; and the only personal evidence is that of William Biles and Joseph Wood, who declared they remembered a treaty being held, but did not know that a deed had been executed."

[1] *Votes of Assembly*, vol. ii. p. 1.

[2] *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 490.

William Biles's active participation in civil affairs was not greater than in religious ones. As has previously been stated, meetings for worship had been held at his house before the arrival of Penn, and the first meeting for discipline, which was the germ of Falls Meeting, took place there on 3d mo. 2, 1683,[1] as also the first Quarterly Meeting, which was held 3d mo. 7, 1684.

Charles W. Smith, in his *History of the Early Settlement of Wrightstown*,[2] gives a copy of the opening minute of the first Monthly Meeting. It was as follows:

"Men's Monthly Meeting held near the Falls of Delaware in the County of Bucks in the Province of Pennsylvania.

"At a meeting at William Biles House the 2nd day of the 3d mo. 1683, then held to wait upon the Lord for his wisdom, to hear what should be offered in order to inspect the affairs of the church, that all things might be kept sweet and savoury therein, to the Lord, and by our care over the church, helpful in the works of God"—"and we whose names are as follows, being present, thought it fit & necessary that a Monthly Meeting should be set up, both of men and women for that purpose, and that this meeting be the first of mens meetings after our arrival in these parts."

The friends present were William Yardley, James Harrison, Phineas Pemberton, William Biles, William Dark, Lyonell Brittaine, and William Beaks. All of William Biles's services in behalf of the meeting's interests are of course not known, but the minutes record, among others, the following:[3]

On 1st mo. 4, 1685, the matter of difference so long depending between William Yardley and Eleanor Pownall was brought before the Mo. Mtg., and Henry Baker and William Biles were appointed to settle same, and on 4th mo. 3, they reported that the dividing line should be run according as surveyor first laid it out by Governor's order. 6th mo. 5, 1685, Thomas Janney, William Biles, Henry Baker and Richard

[1] Davis's *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 105; MS. Minutes Falls Monthly Meeting and Bucks Quarterly Meeting.

[2] P. 21; see also *Hist. Sketches relating to Early Settlement of Friends at Falls*, p. 30.

[3] MS. Minutes Falls Monthly Meeting and Bucks Quarterly Meeting.

Hough were appointed by the Qtly. Mtg. to adjust the difference between Jno. Brooks and Lydia Wharmby, and on 6th mo. 17, 1687, William Biles was dealt with for selling liquor to Indians.

In 1690 the first meeting-house was built near Fallsington, and was deeded to Thomas Janney, William Biles, Richard Hough, and Joshua Hoopes, in trust for the meeting. On 11th mo. 6, 1691, certain Friends, including William Biles, agreed to take the meeting's share of all books that shall be printed in the unity of Friends and by their approbation. On 12th mo. 1, 1692, William Biles took upon him to pay the balance of carpenters' account for the meeting-house. On 5th mo. 1, 1696, William Biles and wife proposed to visit Friends in New England, and were given a Certificate. On 9th mo. 3, 1697, it was "agreed that a Testimony be drawn concerning Thomas Janney's labors and service amongst us in the Truth," and Joseph Kirkbride, William Biles, Phineas Pemberton, Richard Hough, Jane Biles, and Margery Hough were appointed to prepare the same. In 1699 it was decided to enlarge the meeting-house, and William Biles, Richard Hough, and Joshua Hoopes were appointed to make the agreement with workmen. On 7th mo. 4, 1700, Joshua Hoopes and his wife Eleanor, who had had some differences, were present, but did not agree in their accounts, and Richard Hough, William Duncan, and William Biles were appointed to hear them together and give an account to the meeting. On 8th mo. 2 they reported that Elinor did not sustain her position, and a paper of Condemnation which Joshua had formerly brought in against his wife was read and approved by the meeting. On 11th mo. 5 Jane Biles proposed to go to visit Friends in some parts of Europe, and William said he formerly had opposed it, but now gave his consent and would go with her, and on 1st mo. 5, 1701, certificates for both were read and signed. On 7th mo. 6, 1704, William Biles, Joseph Kirkbride, Richard Hough, and Jacob Janney were appointed to assist Elizabeth Brock to settle her deceased husband's estate. On 11th mo. 4, 1709, William Biles was reported as being very weak, and unfit to take care of the meeting's accounts, and on 5th mo. 5, 1710, he was reported as being dead, and a committee was appointed to call on his son William for the meeting's books and papers.

George Keith caused much trouble and dissension among the members of the Society of Friends, and finally was disowned by the meetings. On 4th mo. 17, 1692, William Biles, William Yardley, and others wrote a letter to London Friends about the difficulties and divisions occasioned by Keith's separation.[1]

[1] Evans's *Exposition*, etc., p. 218.

On 4th mo. 20, 1692, the Meeting of Public Friends, in Philadelphia, gave forth its Testimony[1] of Denial against him, and among the signers was William Biles;[2] and the Yearly Meeting held at Burlington 7th mo. 7, 1692, sent out its Testimony signed by over two hundred members, including William Biles.

On account of the misrepresentations made by Keith in regard to the teachings of the Society, it was deemed wise to state clearly what these really were, and this was accordingly done; and in 1695 T. Sowle published, in London, a pamphlet entitled *Our Antient Testimony renewed concerning our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Holy Scriptures and the Resurrection, given forth by a Meeting of Public Friends and Others, at Philadelphia in Pennsylvania;* and this was also published in 1696 as an Appendix to the English translation of *The General History of the Quakers*, by Gerard Croesse. Among the thirty-nine signers of this statement were Griffith Owen, William Biles, Richard Gove, and Thomas Janney.

William Biles seems always to have been a clear-headed advocate of the principles of Quakerism, and it has been said that[3]

"There appears to be good evidence in the testimonies of various kinds left concerning this Friend, that he was one qualified by the Great Minister of Ministers, to labour in his cause, and that his Gospel labours were blessed to the good of the church. How much more useful in the Lord's hand, he and many of his fellow-ministers would have been, if they had refused all public offices, we cannot tell."

William and Johannah Biles had eight children, five of whom were born in England and three in America. The dates of birth of the former are taken from Friends' Records at Devonshire House, London, where the name is spelled "Byles," and of the latter from Records of Middletown

[1] *The Friend*, vol. xix. p. 86; Proud's *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. pp. 365, 368; Hazard's *Register Pa.*, vol. vi. pp. 279, 280.

[2] Ibid., pp. 301, 302; *The Friend*, vol. xix. p. 109.

[3] *The Friend*, vol. xxviii. p. 109.

Quarterly Meeting, Pennsylvania, where the name is spelled "Biles." Many of the certificates of early marriages in Pennsylvania were not recorded, and this is the case with those of most of these children. From the minutes, which show when six of them received permission to marry, and from their father's will, it appears that they married as stated below.

CHILDREN.[1]

1. *Elizabeth*, *b.* 4th mo. 3, 1670; *m.*, 1st, at house of William Biles, 8th mo. 31, 1688, Stephen Beaks, and had five children. She *m.*, 2d, Matthew Hughes.

II. 2. *William*, *b.* 11th mo. 12, 1671; *m.*, at Middletown Meeting, 11th mo., 1695, Sarah Langhorne, daughter of Thomas and Grace Langhorne, and had nine children.

3. *George*, *b.* 7th mo. 4, 1673; *bur.* 12th mo. 27, 1708/9; *m.*, 1697, Martha Blackshaw, who *d.* 1720. They had six children. She *m.*, 2d, 1713, Joseph Waite, of Philadelphia, who *d.* before her, in 1720.

4. *Joanah*,[2] *b.* 1st mo. 1, 1675; *m.*, 1695, Samuel Beaks, and had six children.

5. *John*, *b.* 1st mo. 31, 1678; *m.*, at Chesterfield Monthly Meeting, New Jersey, 1707, Mary Lambert, *b.* 2d mo. 2, 1681, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Lambert, and had five children.

6. *Rebeckah*, *b.* 10th mo. 27, 1680;[3] *m.*, at Falls Meeting, 6th mo. 18, 1703, Joseph Janney, *b.* 1st mo. 26, 1675/6; *d.* about 1728; son of Thomas and Margery (Heath) Janney, and had six children, five of whom moved to Loudoun County, Virginia.

7. *Mary*, *b.* 11th mo. 1, 1682; *m.* —— Robbins, and had one child.

8. *Ann*, *b.* 4th mo. 13, 1685; *m.*, 12th mo., 1706/7, Thomas Yardley, who came to America, in 1704, from Rushton Spencer, County Stafford. They had ten children. For account of them, see the *Yardley Genealogy*.

From Phineas Pemberton's letters[4] we learn that in 3d mo., 1687, a great land flood and freshet at the Falls occa-

[1] The number of children that each of William Biles's children is stated in this list to have had is the number whose names have been ascertained. Each of his children may have had more than herein mentioned.

[2] So spelled in English Records; in American it is Johannah.

[3] Burlington Monthly Meeting gives her birth as 11th mo. 27.

[4] Buck's *Bucks Co., Pa.*, p. 23; *Hist. Sketches relating to Early Settlement of Friends at Falls*, p. 55.

sioned much sickness. Whether this was the cause of the death of William Biles's wife cannot now be stated, but she died that year and was buried 7th mo. 4.

On 10th mo. 11, 1688, he married, at his own house, Jane Atkinson,[1] widow of Thomas Atkinson, and it has been said that

"in her he had a faithful helpmeet, and one well calculated to assist him on his journey heavenward." She was a minister, and is said to have had an eminent public testimony, and is shown by the Minutes of Falls Monthly Meeting to have been useful in meetings for discipline, and to have served on numerous committees. They appear to have often travelled in the ministry of the Gospel. In 1st mo., 1689, she visited Friends in East Jersey and on Long Island, and in the summer of 1696, accompanied by her husband, she visited the meetings of Friends in New England, to their satisfaction. A concern for a long time rested on her mind to pay a religious visit to the land of her birth, but her husband discouraged it as far as he could. In 10th mo., 1699, she laid the matter before the General Meeting of Ministers, and towards the close of that year William Biles, writing to William Ellis, who had just returned from a religious visit to Friends in America, said, "My wife talks of coming to you, but how it may be upon that account I shall at present leave to the ordering hand of the Lord; the voyage is great, and she but weakly in body." When the meeting finally gave her liberty to go, "not being satisfied with the opposition her husband made," he decided to go with her, and in the early part of 1701 they both went to England and Ireland and returned towards the close of 1702, and the visit seems to have been well accepted there.

Quite a lengthy sketch of her life and labors was published in *The Friend*,[2] from which it appears that she resided in Yorkshire, and in 1678 married Thomas Atkinson, a minister in the Society of Friends; that in 1682 they removed to New Jersey, and brought a recommendation from Beamsley Meeting in Yorkshire. In 1687 she was taken very ill, and both she and her husband thought she would die. After a time he told her he believed she would be raised up again and that he should be taken instead. This proved to be true, for that very day he became unwell, and, after lingering for eight or nine weeks, died; while she, by

[1] Yorkshire Friends' Records at Devonshire House, London, show the marriage of "Thomas Adkinson of Sandwich, Adingham psh., Yorkshire, to Jane Boid, 4th mo. 4, 1678, at Knaresborough Meeting." No residence or parentage of Jane Boid being given.

[2] Vol. xxviii. pp. 93, 102.

whom much labor in the militant church was yet to be performed, grew stronger and stronger.

Her testimony in regard to her husband, Thomas Atkinson, has been published in *The Friend*.[1] She died in 1709, and was buried 10th mo. 21, leaving three children by her first husband and none by her second. William Biles did not long survive his wife, but died in 1710, and his burial took place 3d mo. 19.

His will appears not to have been recorded, but an abstract of it was published in PENNA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG.[2] It was dated January 5, 1709, and contained the following bequests:

"To my son John Biles, 300 acres of land.

"To my daughter Elizabeth Hewes, wife of Matthew Hewes, the sum of twenty shillings.

"To my three grandchildren, John, Mary, and Grace Beakes, the sum of fifty pounds, to be equally divided between them.

"To my daughter, Johannah Beakes, the wife of Samuel Beakes, the sum of twenty shillings.

"To my daughter, Rebeckah Janney, the wife of Joseph Janney, the sum of one hundred and forty pounds.

"To their two daughters, Martha and Ann Janney, the sum of ten pounds, to be equally divided between them.

"To my daughter, Ann, the wife of Thomas Yardley, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds.

"To my daughter-in-law, Martha Biles, the sum of five pounds.

"To my three grandchildren, Johannah, Phebe, and Sarah Biles, the daughters of my children George and Martha Biles, the sum of fifteen pounds, to be equally divided between them.

"To my three granddaughters, Ann, Grace, and Sarah Biles, the daughters of my son and daughter, William and Sarah Biles, the sum of fifteen pounds, to be equally divided between them.

"To my sister-in-law, Mary Biles, the widow of my brother, Thomas Biles, of Dorchester, in the county of Dorset, in old England, eight pounds.

"To my grandson, William Robbins, the son of my daughter, Mary Robbins, the plantation where I last lived, lying betwixt the land of Anthony Burton, and the land of my son John Biles. It being part of

[1] Vol. xxvii. p. 172.

[2] Vol. xv. p. 503.

the same land I purchased from Henry Barkar [Baker?] by estimation, about 200 acres.

"To my grandchildren, Johannah and Rebeckah Beakes, the daughters of my son and daughter, Samuel and Johannah Beakes, the sum of twenty-four pounds.

"To my son William Biles, all the rest, residue of my lands in West Jersey, etc.

"Signed, published, and declared this fifth day of the Eleventh month called January, 1709, in the presence of us,

"JER. LANGHORN,
"JOS. KIRKBRIDE,
"ROBERT SOTCHER."

It may be of interest to add, that upon William Biles's plantation, near Penn's Manor, there now stands a large brick dwelling of ancient date,[1] which has been represented by tradition and from the initials inscribed upon it as the homestead of William Biles, Sr., who is said to have built it of bricks brought from England.[2]

There is also a tradition that the Bible William Biles brought to America had belonged to John Waite, and had the latter's name in it, with the statement that he bought it in 1633. It has been surmised by some that this John Waite was the father of either William Biles's mother or wife.

The children of William Biles do not seem to have occupied so prominent a place in the meeting as their father did, Johannah, William, and Ann having been dealt with by Falls Monthly Meeting, though they all retained their membership.

II. William seems to have been the most prominent of the sons in civil life, and he occupied many public posi-

[1] *Hist. Sketches relating to Early Settlement of Friends at Falls*, p. 26; Davis's *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 105 n.

[2] Some few Colonial houses were built of "bricks brought from England," but most of such brick houses were built of bricks made near the spot. In those days bricks of two shapes or sizes were used, one called "Dutch bricks" and the other "English bricks." From "English bricks" to "bricks brought from England" was an easy step for tradition to take.

tions.[1] He was Sheriff of Bucks County 1704–1707; Coroner October 3, 1717; Justice of the Peace September 6, 1718; January 4, 1722; May 12, 1725; September 14, 1725; September 13, 1726; September 10, 1727; November 22, 1738; member of Assembly 1710, 1711, 1718–1725, 1732, 1735–1737; and Speaker of Assembly 1724–1725, having been so elected October 14, 1724.[2]

In 1721 he and five others were appointed by the court as viewers for a road from "Yardley's Ferry to the Cross Roads near Neshaminy meeting-house,"[3] and in 1724 he was on the committee to build a new court-house and prison at Newtown, the new county-seat of Bucks County.[4] He was admitted to the Bar in New Jersey December 5, 1721,[5] was a member of the "Council of Proprietors of West Jersey," and as such was one of the signers of the paper sent by that body to Governor William Burnet, against repealing an act for ascertaining the line between the eastern and western divisions of New Jersey.[6]

He was a large land-owner, both in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and in New Jersey, having inherited some tracts from his father and bought others; among the latter was a half interest in 4000 acres in Evesham, Burlington County, which he bought of John Borradail in 1717, and sold in 1726 to Thomas Marks for £284,[7] in which deed he is styled "William Biles of Bucks County, Penna., Esq^{r}."

In his will, made in 1737, he left certain lands on "Morris" River to his children, but they did not inherit them, for he (and various members of the Lambert family), January 15, 1738/9,[8] released for £1500 to Abraham Bennet

[1] *Pa. Arch.*, 2d. ser., vol. ix. pp. 742–759.

[2] *Votes of Assembly*, vol. ii. p. 403.

[3] Penna. Mag. Hist. and Biog., vol. vii. p. 72.

[4] Ibid., p. 73; *Votes of Assembly*, vol. ii. p. 238; *Colonial Records*, vol. iii. p. 255.

[5] Snell's *Hist. Hunterdon Co., N. J.*, p. 206.

[6] Smith's *Hist. N. J.*, Reprint 1890, pp. 551–554.

[7] W. J. Deeds, *Liber* D, *fol.* 163.

[8] Ibid., *Liber* E F, *fol.* 108.

and others 10,000 acres, being part of several properties situate in Quohocking, Cohansie, and Maurice River, West New Jersey, which James Wass had released in 1707 to William Biles, his father.

The wife of William Biles, Jr., was Sarah Langhorne,[1] sister of Jeremiah Langhorne, who was Chief-Justice of Pennsylvania, Speaker of Assembly, member of the same for many years, and also filled other offices. Indeed, most of those connected with the Biles family seem to have been office-holders. Thomas Biles was Sheriff 1726–27; Langhorne Biles, Justice of the Peace 1749 and 1752; and other connections of the family for years served as Justices, and in the Assembly.

The will of William Biles, of Falls Township, was dated December 3, 1737, and proved September 27, 1739. It is recorded in *Liber* I, *fol.* 267,[2] and in it mention is made of his wife Sarah; his sons William, Charles, and Langhorne; his daughters Sarah and Elizabeth Biles, Ann Pennington, and Hannah Janney; his grandchildren William, Jeremiah, and John Beatts, [Bates], Edward, Mary, and Sarah Pennington, Thomas and Margaret Biles; to all of whom he left land, mostly in West Jersey, on "Morris" River, and to most of them some negroes. By a codicil he left the Island to his son William, who also received the home plantation after his mother's death.

The following is a list of his children and the persons they married:

CHILDREN (ORDER OF BIRTH UNCERTAIN).

1. *Thomas*, *b.* 6th mo. 30, 1696; *d.* 1743; *m.*, 12th mo. 1729, Elizabeth Lambert, daughter of Thomas, of New Jersey. She returned to Chesterfield Meeting 11th mo., 1763. Her will proved 1771 (N. J. Wills, *Liber* 15, *fol.* 474).

2. *William*, *d.* 1775; *m.*, 1st, 3d mo., 1725, Ann Stevenson,[3] *b.*

[1] For account of Langhorne family, see PENNA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG., vol. vii. pp. 67–87.

[2] Ibid., vol. xv. p. 382.

[3] See *Our Family Ancestors*, p. 300.

12th mo. 6, 1704; *d.* 3d mo. 8, 1734; daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Jennings) Stevenson; *m.*, 2d, Jane ——; *d.* 1777. William and his two sons, Thomas and William, were disowned by Falls Meeting, 6th mo., 1756, for joining a military association; his will is recorded in Bucks Co., *Liber* 3, *fol.* 385.

3. *Charles*, *m.*, 1729, Ann Mary Baker, *b.* 4th mo. 16, 1704, daughter of Samuel and Rachel (Warder) Baker, for account of whom see *Publications* So. Hist. Assoc., vol. v. p. 480. In 1732 Charles and his wife removed from Falls to Buckingham Meeting.

4. *Langhorne*, *m.*, 1749, Hannah Kirkbride, *b.* 9th mo. 23, 1726, daughter of Joseph, Jr., and Sarah (Fletcher) Kirkbride. Langhorne was disowned by Falls Meeting, 1748, for joining a military association; upon his marriage, his wife was taken under dealings, and in 1756 disowned therefor.

5. *Ann*, *b.* 12th mo. 4, 1702/3; *bur.* 12th mo. 22, 1748/9; *m.* 10th mo., 1725, Isaac Pennington, *b.* 1700, son of Edward and Sarah (Jennings) Pennington.

6. *Grace*, *d.* before 1737; *m.* —— Bates, who was twice married. The will of her daughter Sarah Bates, dated 1760 (Bucks Co. Wills, *Liber* 3, *fol.* 21), mentions sister Hannah, wife of Saml. Yeardley; aunt Hannah Janney; cousin Charles Janney; cousin Bettie Janney, daughter of Abel Janney; niece Sarah Bates, daughter of brother John; cousins Ann and Elizabeth Janney; brother John Bates and half-brother Job Bates.

7. *Sarah*, *d. s. p.* 1781; *m.*, 1740, Lawrence Growden, who was twice married. Her will is recorded in Bucks Co., *Liber* 4, *fol.* 336.

8. *Elizabeth*, *m.*, 1740, Abel Janney. The marriage license, issued in New Jersey June 5, 1740, describes them as Abel Janney, of Maidenhead, New Jersey, and Elizabeth Biles, of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It is not certain whether Abel was the son of Thomas and Rachel (Pownall) Janney or of Abel and Elizabeth (Stacy) Janney, though probably the former, whose wife was named Elizabeth, and joined Middletown Monthly Meeting in 1745; she and her husband moved to Virginia in 1746 and returned to Pennsylvania in 1748, he dying that year (see *Publications* So. Hist. Assoc. vol. v. p. 481). The latter Abel married out of meeting, prior to 1742, and that year was in Virginia, whence he returned in 1745, and in 1752 and 1753 kept a tavern in Ridley Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. He married a second time in 1755. Whether Elizabeth (Biles) Janney had other children than a daughter Betty is not known. Records of Race Street Meeting, Philadelphia, show the burials in 1758 and 1759 of four children of Abel Janney, but do not give their mother's name.

9. *Hannah, m.*, at Falls Meeting, 3d mo., 1735, Thomas Janney, son of Abel and Elizabeth (Stacy) Janney. One of their sons, Thomas, was a Lieutenant in the Falls Company Bucks County Associators in 1775, (*Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. xiv. p. 151), and later an officer in the Revolutionary army (Ibid., vol. x. pp. 153, 449; PENNA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG., vol. vii. p. 167).

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William Beakes, of the parish of Backwell, County Somerset, England, married 3 mo. 12, 1661, at North Somerset Mtg., Mary Wall (or Waln) of Olverstone. (Register of No. Somerset Mo. Mtg.) William was perhaps son of Edmund Beakes, of Portshead in the northern part of Somersetshire, one of the earliest converts to Quakerism in that region, the births (but not William's), marriages and burials of several of whose children appear on the register of North Somerset Monthly Meeting.

William and Mary Beakes, with their son Abraham came to Pennsylvania in the "Bristol Merchant," arriving in the Delaware River, in 12 mo. 1682. Their sons Stephen, Samuel and William also came over, and probably at the same time, but being of age were not included with their parents in the List of Arrivals. William Beakes had by deeds of lease and release, July 26 & 27, 1681, purchased from Wm. Penn 1000 acres of land in Pennsylvania. This land, or part of it, was laid out to him in Bucks County; Holme's Map shows two tracts on the Delaware River, in that part originally considered to be in Falls Township, but after the official division of 1692 in Makefield. A 300 acre plantation "near the Falls," one of the above, was patented to his heirs and executors, by the Commissioners of Property, 11 mo. 9, 1688. In right of his 1000 acres purchase, he had two lots in the city of Philadelphia, one on Delaware Front St., 20 feet wide, going back 396 ft. to 2nd St., and one on High (Market) St., 26 ft. front and 306 feet deep; the warrant for these was dated 5 mo. 22, 1684; surveyed 9 mo. 1, 1691; return 9 mo. 5 & 10, 1692;[2] they may be seen on Holme's "Portraiture" of the city.

William Beakes was a Member of Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, 1684 and 1685; and a Justice of the Bucks County Court, commissioned April 6, 1685. He died 7 mo. 14, 1687, intestate, and

[1] For much of the material in this note, especially the English records, I am indebted to Mr. Warren S. Ely, of Doylestown, Pa., a descendant of the first William Beakes.—O. H.

[2] Phila. Exemplification-Records, Book 7, page 129.

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letters of administration were granted his widow, Mary Beakes, 9 mo. 5, 1687.[1] She died 11 mo. 4, 1696, [Jan. 1695/6].[2] They had issue; (births of Stephen and Samuel from register of No. Somerset Mo. Mtg.):

William, b.———; see below.

Stephen, b. 2 mo. 28, 1665; married 8 mo. 31, 1688, Elizabeth, daughter of William Biles. Stephen Beakes was a Member of Assembly, 1697. He bought 203 acres of Lionel Britton,[3] 8 mo. 10, 1688; shown on Holme's Map in Britton's name. He made a deed of trust[4] of his property to Samuel Beakes and Phineas Pemberton, for his own use during life and after his decease to the use of his wife Elizabeth, until his son John attained the age of 21 years. After Stephen's death his widow married Matthew Hughes.

Samuel, b. 1 mo. 14, 1666/7; married (circ. 1694?) Joanna Biles, sister of his brother Stephen's wife. For account of the Biles family, see *William Biles*, by Miles White, Jr., PENNA. MAG., XXVI, 58–70, 192–206, 348–359. Samuel Beakes was a Member of Assembly, 1705 (*vice* Peter Worrall, dec'd), 1707, 1708, 1709 and 1716/7 (*vice* Thomas Stackhouse, elected 1716, but refused to serve). He was Sheriff of Bucks County 1695–1701. He bought 120 acres of Richard Ridgway,[5] 4 mo. 8, 1691; shown on Holme's Map in Ridgway's name.

Abraham, b.———; married Margaret Hoopes, daughter of Joshua and Isabel, of Makefield Township. Joshua Hoopes was one of the leading men in early Bucks County, being a member of Assembly in 1686, '88, '92, '95, '96, '97, 1700, '01, '03, '05, '08, '09, and 1711, but later he moved to Chester County, with which county his descendants have been prominently identified. Abraham Beakes and wife accompanied her family to Chester County, Abraham dying there in 1703, and his widow afterwards marrying John Todhunter.

William Beakes (II), son of William and Mary (Waln) Beakes, was High Sheriff of Bucks County in 1689. He obtained from the other heirs of his father, viz: Mary, widow and administratrix, and Stephen, Samuel and Abraham, sons of William Beakes, deceased, the 300 acre plantation, which the Commissioners of Property had in 1688 patented

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[1] Bucks Co. Adm'n Book A, vol. 7, p. 33.

[2] Middletown Mo. Mtg. register has the date 11 mo. 4, 1696, which would ordinarily mean January, 1696/7, but the probate of her will shows that in this instance the new year has been used, and that it should be 1695/6. Her will was dated 12 mo. 5, 1694/5 and proved 12 mo. 28, 1695/6.

[3] Bucks Co. Deed Book 1, p. 197.

[4] Bucks Co. Deed Book 3, p. 64.

[5] Bucks Co. Deed Book 1, p. 361.

to them all.[1] On 12 mo. 18, 1689, William Beakes (II) made a deed of trust[2] to John Worrilow of Chester and Walter Worrilow of Philadelphia, for this plantation, "in consideration of a marriage shortly (by God's permission) to be held and solemnized between the said William Beakes and Elizabeth Worrilow daughter of Thomas Worrilow of the County of Chester in this Province and for the future good and advancement of ye sd Elizabeth." William and Elizabeth sold this March 20, 1694, to John Snowden.

William Beakes married first, about 1690, Elizabeth Worrilow, daughter of Thomas, of Chester Co. They lived until about 1694 on the 300 acre plantation in Falls (or Makefield) Township, already mentioned, after which they moved to Burlington County, West Jersey. They had probably already moved when they made the deed to Snowden, as two of the witnesses were Burlington County men, Thomas Lambert and William Emley. On Nov. 26 & 27, 1707, Beakes purchased from William Emley, 100 acres in Nottingham Township, adjoining Mahlon Stacy's land; he lived here the rest of his life, his first wife Elizabeth dying here. By his will March 24, 1710, he devised it to his son Edmund. William and Elizabeth (Worrilow) Beakes had issue; (births from register of Middletown Mo. Mtg.):

William, born 8 mo. 3, 1691, died young.

Edmund, born 8 mo. 3, 1692. Inherited his father's plantation of 100 acres in Nottingham Township, and sold it Nov. 2 & 3, 1713, to his step-mother, Ruth Beakes, as stated under 6. SAMUEL ATKINSON above.

Walter, born 11 mo. 25, 1693/4, died 12 mo. 8, 1702, (register Falls Mo. Mtg.).

William Beakes married second, *Ruth Stacy*, daughter of Mahlon and Rebecca (Ely) Stacy; see note F. They had issue:

Sarah, married 8 mo. 29, 1730, Thomas Potts, Jr., of Mansfield Tp., Burlington Co., son by the first wife, of that Thomas Potts, whose second wife was Rebecca (Stacy) Wright, sister to Sarah's mother; see Note F. Their son, Stacy Potts, was sometime Mayor of Trenton.

Stacy, removed to Bucks County, Pa.; on 8 mo. 12, 1730 his stepfather, SAMUEL ATKINSON requested a certificate for him from Haddonfield (Gloucester) Mo. Mtg. to Falls Mo. Mtg. He lived in Makefield Township, and married 2 mo. 19, 1733, at Falls Mtg., Mary Bickerdike, of Falls Tp.

Nathan.

After William Beakes's death, his widow *Ruth*, married 7 mo. 12, 1714, SAMUEL ATKINSON (No. 6), son of *Thomas* and *Jane.*

(To be continued.)

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[1] Bucks Co. Deed Books 2, pp. 35 and 40.

[2] Bucks Co. Deed Books 1, p. 312, and 2, p. 38.

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